



Oneida Lake Association  
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## SAVE THE DATE!

The Board of Directors of the OLA will host their **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING** next week! Mark your calendar for Wednesday, April 23 at the Millard Hawk School in Central Square. Doors open at 6:00 if you would like to visit our variety of exhibitors. The meeting itself starts promptly at 7:00. As always, we have a great line-up of speakers including representatives from the Fish Hatchery, the DEC, the Cornell Field Station, Law Enforcement, and much, much more! Come hear an update on the really cool telemetry study on the lake!



It will be a great night of information, displays, answering questions, meeting with friends, and, as always, plenty of raffle prizes, including Runnings gift certificates and a canoe! (You must be present to win.).

We hope to see you there!

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## Hatchery News

Once again, it was a great pleasure to volunteer at the Hatchery during the walleye spawning run. It's always great to see the many visitors come through to check out the work of the hatchery staff.

According to Hatchery Manager Bill Evans, the egg collection went well this year. As always, there was a steady "run" of visitors who came to check out the process. Once

again, researchers from the Cornell Field Station at Shackleton Point arrived to begin their annual process of clipping fish for future mark recapture studies. Pictured are Research Specialist Tom Brooking and intern Cam Davis, both from the Field Station.

**Director Evans is one of our featured speakers for the 2025 Annual Membership Meeting. Join us on April 23rd to hear about this year's egg collection in more detail.**



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## High Tech Water Sterilizing at the Hatchery

Director Evans also gave me some insight into their new piece of equipment installed behind the scenes at the hatchery. As we know, keeping the intake of water at the correct temperature is important for the egg collection and fertilization process. So, too, is the elimination of harmful viruses and bacteria. In order to facilitate the highest quality of water, the Hatchery has installed a **UV sterilizer**. The intake of water passes through this high-tech device, sterilizing the water with ultraviolet light. Evans explained that such a process eliminates the need for any chemicals. Instead, the huge device uses hydro-optic UV to kill most bacteria. The result is far less bacteria in the water that is used during the fertilization process.



In the picture, Evans points to the array of UV bulbs positioned at the water pass-through. Evans also explained that the device is brand new and the only one in any of the state's hatcheries! Evans can control the device through the illuminated keypad seen on the back wall.





## SUNY Morrisville

Besides developing the next generation of walleyes for the lake, the Hatchery also serves as a hands-on classroom for the development of the next generation of fisheries managers and researchers. For example, students from SUNY Morrisville volunteered at the hatchery for one day during this year's egg collection season.

Aquaculture Professor Elisa Livengood brought a small group of students to participate first-hand in the egg collection process. She writes:



"Our program is a two year associates in Applied Science in Aquaculture and Aquatic Sciences and we also have a Bachelors of Technology in Natural Resources Management at SUNY Morrisville. Students from both programs were in attendance. In our aquaculture program we have a trout fish hatchery which provides the basis for training our students in aquaculture. The primary employer of my students is the DEC hatchery and fisheries system and as well as hatcheries in Alaska. We visit Oneida Fish Hatchery to learn different spawning techniques and to view their aquaculture systems like their newly installed UV system.

The Bachelors degree program requires an internship for graduation and one of our students is working in the hatchery on internship as well learning all of their skills through the various experiences the hatchery offers. This type of hands-on applied learning is essential to our programs so I am thankful that Oneida fish hatchery welcomes college students to come and learn. They gain knowledge of different hatchery systems, the challenges of a different species both in the biology and management, and are able to interact with professionals in their field of study.

It's a valuable opportunity to gain that knowledge of different techniques. I have to remind the students you handle walleye spawning entirely different from Brook trout spawning! How you hold the fish and take eggs all differs depending on the species. They are eager to learn more and it always proves a fun time. "

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*Professor Livengood, in blue, listens as Hatchery manager Evans speaks to the students*



## Spring Cleanup

OLA Director George Reck will head up our Annul Spring Clean Up on the stretch of roadway that the OLA has adopted. Mark your calendar for Friday, April 25. Plan to meet at the Bartel Road 81 North on-ramp at 9:00 am. Dress for the weather, and bring some gloves. George will supply large trash collection bags. We have a prize for the most unusual item bagged! Come join us in our mission to keep the lake area clean!

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The Mission of the Oneida Lake Association is to protect the fisheries, wildlife, and natural resources of Oneida Lake by promoting science-based conservation and management through education and outreach, in partnership with our members and local communities.

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Pay your dues, and HELP PROTECT ONEIDA LAKE!!!!

**\$8 annually**

Recruit your neighbors and friends TO JOIN US!

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Donate

Memorials and contributions to our program are most welcome.

OLA is a 501(c)4 organization serving and protecting the Oneida Lake environment.



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## OLA Website

OLA is a 501(c)(4) not-for-profit organization.

The Oneida Lake Association is a member of the New York State Conservation Council <http://www.nyscc.com/> and the New York State Federation of Lake Associations <http://www.nysfola.org/>.

Please remember to obey all laws, rules, regulations, and codes of ethics as they pertain to boating, fishing, hunting, and the management of Oneida Lake and its tributaries.

[Report environmental violations.](#)

[1-844-DEC-ECOS \(1-844-332-3267\)](tel:1-844-DEC-ECOS)

*Edited by John Harmon*

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